

6² detecting the resulting electrical activity caused by the stimulation pulses at the stimulation electrode in the pelvic organs or pelvic floor by the at least one recording electrode.

REMARKS

Claims 1-76 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 77 has been amended. New claims 79-91 have been added. The Applicant requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following response. A marked up version of the changes made to Claim 77 is attached.

Claims 77-78 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,321,116) in view of Tippey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,702,428). Applicant has amended Claim 77 above so that the provided probe includes a distensible member having a first end connected to the body and a distal end movable relative to the body. Claim 77 has also been amended to include the step of moving the distal end of the distensible member away from the body to engage tissue of the anal canal or vagina with the recording electrode. Applicant submits that neither the Mo et al. reference nor the Tippey et al. reference disclose such a moving step. Therefore Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 77 as now amended is not obvious in view of the Mo et al. and Tippey et al. references. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration of the patentability of Claim 77, as well as Claim 78 which is dependent on Claim 77.

Applicant has added new claims 79-91. Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 79-91 are fully supported by the original application as filed and do not introduce new matter to the application.

Applicant respectfully submits that new Claims 79-91 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests consideration of these claims.

L Applicant submits that addition fees for new Claims 79-91 are not required as fees have already been paid in this application to cover the number of claims presented. However, should additional fees be required, please charge such additional fees to Applicant's Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

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In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in this application are in immediate condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application and its early allowance are requested. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Amended Claims Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

77. (Amended) A method of quantifying nerve and neural-muscular integrity related to pelvic organs or pelvic floor functions comprising [the step of]:

providing a probe comprising a body, a distensible member, and a recording electrode, wherein the distensible member has a first end connected to the body and a distal end movable relative to the body, and wherein the recording electrode is attached to the distensible member adjacent the distal end;

placing [a] the probe [having at least one recording electrode] into the anal canal or vagina;

moving the distal end of the distensible member away from the body to engage tissue of the anal canal or vagina with the recording electrode;

placing a stimulation electrode, connected to a pulse generator, near the spinal cord or sacral nerves;

producing electrical stimulation pulses at the stimulation electrode; and

detecting the resulting electrical activity in the pelvic organs or pelvic floor by the recording electrode.

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